

What is claimed is:

1. An image communication apparatus comprising:

public switched telephone communication means
5 for receiving and transmitting data on a public
switched telephone network;

transmitting means for transmitting an image
over the Internet;

identifying means for identifying receiver
10 side information from data received by said public
switched telephone communication means; and

communication path selecting means for
selecting any one of said public switched telephone
network and the Internet as a communication path
15 through which the image is transmitted to the
receiver side based on the identification result
obtained by said identifying means.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said receiver side information includes information
20 of whether or not the receiver side has a capability
of receiving and transmitting the image over the
Internet.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said public switched telephone communication means
25 receives receiver side information during a
communication control protocol.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said public switched telephone communication means

005040 0025850

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising storing means for storing the identification result obtained by said identifying means wherein said communication path selecting means carries out an automatic selection of the communication path based on the identification result stored in said storing means.

7. An image communication apparatus comprising:
public switched telephone communication means
for receiving and transmitting data on a public
switched telephone network;

receiver side information transmitting means
for transmitting self-information to a transmitter
side using said public switch telephone
communication means.

receiver side information includes information of

whether or not the receiver side has a capability of receiving and transmitting the image over the Internet.

9. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
5 said public switched telephone communication means
receives receiver side information during a
communication control protocol.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein said public switched telephone communication
means receives and transmits data on a facsimile
communication protocol.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said receiving means receives the image on an electric mail communication protocol.

15 12. An image communication apparatus comprising:
receiving means for receiving data including a
capability on a receiver side on a public switched
telephone network;

identifying means for identifying said capability from data received; and
transmitting means for transmitting an image over the Internet to be suitable for said capability based on the identification result obtained by said identifying means.

25 13. The apparatus according to claim 12,
further comprising converting means for converting
the image to be suitable for the capability, wherein
said transmitting means transmits the converted

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converting means converts the image to be suitable for a minimum set when determining that the receiver side corresponds to only the minimum set based on the capability.

16. An image communication apparatus comprising:
transmitting means for transmitting data
including a self-capability to a transmitter side
on a public switched telephone network; and
receiving means for receiving an image from said
transmitter side over the Internet.

identifying means for identifying the capability on the receiver side from data received; converting means for converting an image based on the identification result obtained by said identifying means; and

18. ~~The~~ apparatus according to claim 17,

5 19. The apparatus according to claim 17,
further comprising storing means for storing the
identification result, wherein said converting
means refers to the identification result stored in
said storing means.

21. An image communication apparatus comprising:
communication means for carrying out a main
communication for transmitting an image over the
Internet after carrying out a sub-communication for
receiving data including a capability on a receiver
side;

main communication controlling means for
controlling said communication means such that said
image is transmitted to be made suitable for the

capability on said receiver side base on the identification result obtained by said identifying means.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21,
5 wherein when said main communication controlling means determines that the receiver side corresponds to a capability upper than a simple mode based on the capability on the receiver side, said main communication controlling means controls said
10 communication means to make the image suitable for said upper capability.

23. The apparatus according to claim 21,
further comprising storing means for storing the identification result wherein said main
15 communication controlling means refers to the identification result stored in said storing means.

24. An image communication apparatus comprising:
communication means for carrying out a main
communication for transmitting an image over the
20 Internet after carrying out a sub-communication for receiving data including a capability on a receiver side;

identifying means for identifying the capability on the receiver side from data received
25 before said main communication after said sub-communication; and

storing means for storing the identification result obtained by said identifying means.

665043-0023260

5

10

information received from the receiver side; and

obtained by said identifying means.

15

a receiver side from said/received data; and

20

protocol.

25

30. The apparatus according to claim 27, further

31. An image communication method comprising the steps
5 of:

identifying receiver side information from said data;
selecting any one of said public switched
telephone network and the Internet as a
communication path through which an image is
transmitted to the receiver side based on the
identification result obtained by said identifying
means.

33. The method according to claim 31, wherein receiver
side information includes information of whether or not the
20 receiver side has a capability for receiving and
transmitting the image over the Internet.

receiving data including a capability on a
25 receiver side on a public switched telephone
network;

identifying the capability on said receiver
from data received; and

5 35. The method according to claim 34, further comprising the step of converting the image to be suitable for the capability, wherein said image converted in said converting step is transmitted in said transmitting step.

37. An image communication method comprising the
15 steps of:

identifying the capability on said receiver
side from data received;

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein
25 when the receiver side corresponds to only a minimum
set based on the capability, the image is converted
to be suitable for the minimum set in the converting
step.

39. The method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of storing the identification result stored in storing means after said identifying step, wherein the identification result stored in said storing means is referred in said converting step.

40. An image communication method comprising the steps of:

performing sub-communication for receiving data including a capability on a receiver side;

identifying the capability on the receiver side from data received in said sub-communication step; and

performing main-communication for transmitting an image over the Internet to be suitable for said capability based on the identification result obtained said identifying step.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein when it is determined that the receiver side corresponds to a capability upper than a simple mode based on the capability in said main communication step, the image is made to be suitable for said upper capability.

42. The method according to claim 40, further comprising the step of storing the identification result in storing means after said identifying step, wherein the identification result stored in said storing means is referred in said converting step.

43. An image communication method comprising the

performing sub-communication for receiving data
including a capability on a receiver side;

storing an identification result obtained by said
identifying step to storing means; and

10 44. The method according to claim 43, wherein said image is made to be suitable for said capability with reference to the identification result stored in said storing means, and said image is transmitted in said main communication step.

receiving data including a mail address on a receiver
side;

46. The method according to claim 45, further comprising the step of storing the identification result in said identifying step to storing means wherein the image is transmitted to the mail address stored in said storing means in said transmitting step.

~~47. A storage medium having a program registered thereon, said program causing a computer, having public~~

switched telephone communication means for receiving and transmitting data on a public switched telephone network and Internet transmitting means for transmitting data over the Internet, to execute procedures for;

5 receiving data on the public switched telephone communication network by said public switched telephone communication means;

identifying receiver side information from said data, processing for selecting any one of said public
10 switched telephone network and said Internet as a communication path through which an image is transmitted to the receiver side based on an identification result; and

transmitting the image through the selected
15 communication path by said public switched telephone communication means or said Internet transmitting means.

48. A storage medium having a program registered thereon, said program causing a computer, having public
20 switched telephone communication means for receiving and transmitting data on a public switched telephone network and Internet transmitting means for transmitting data over the Internet, to execute procedures for;

receiving data including a capability on a receiver
25 side by said public switched telephone communication means;

identifying said capability on the receiver side from received data; and

transmitting an image on said Internet to be suitable

005040 00258260

51. A storage medium having a program registered thereon, said program causing a computer, having communication means for making communications with a receiver side and storing means, to execute procedures for;

performing main communication for transmitting an image over the Internet after performing a sub-communication for receiving data including a capability on said receiver side;

identifying the capability on said receiver side from data received before said main communication after said sub-communication; and

storing said identification result in said storing means.

52. A storage medium having a program registered thereon, said program causing a computer, having receiving means for receiving data including a mail address on a receiver side and transmitting means for transmitting an image over the Internet, to execute procedures for;

receiving said data by said receiving means;
identifying said mail address from said data; and
transmitting said image to said identified mail address over the Internet by said transmitting means.

all